



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Summer 2020
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CSSA News

Mark your calendar for next year!

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) will be hosting its biennial convention from July 15-18, 2021, at the Marriott Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO.

More information will be posted on the CSSA website throughout the year, and information will be provided in the newsletter and on upcoming Zoom meetings as well.

Also, the CSSA is now producing a quarterly e-newsletter titled “To The Point.” All CSSA members are encouraged to check their email for this newsletter copy.

Meetings Update

As club members know, due to the Coronavirus and lockdown efforts associated with it, the MWCSS club has not been having regular club meetings, and our regular yearly summer field trip scheduled for June was cancelled. However, to lighten the mood and still keep club members engaged, a handful of club members have written articles on various cacti/succulent topics of their choice to share with fellow club members. Please see the supplement contained in the email which this newsletter was sent.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, club members will most likely meet only electronically via Zoom meetings (the first of which was successfully held in June). The exception to this that in lieu of having our regular September meeting at Klyn Nursery, the club has reserved a shelter at the Lake County Metroparks to hold the September meeting there (pending no further Coronavirus issues). Also, talks are still underway of possibly having our annual Christmas party at Harry’s Steakhouse in Independence, OH. Please see future email notices regarding both meetings.

Until then, enjoy the hot summer weather and bright sun; we know our plants sure will! ☀

*Some
beautiful
spring
blooms
from
the
greenhouse
of
Club
Vice
President
Bill
Hendricks.*



In Memoriam...

Sadly, long-time club member Joe Kulick passed away on June 25, 2020.

Joe joined the club in the early '80s and actively served as a committee member for several years.

A collector enthusiast, Joe had a beautiful greenhouse attached to the back of his family room filled with a variety of specimen plants, many of which he donated to Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. His favorite was Pachypodium, and he also loved Gymnocalycium and Mammillaria a great deal.

Outside of his plant interest, Joe was a big NASCAR fan and especially loved Dale Earnhardt.

He will be greatly missed by his fellow club members.

Please keep Joe's wife Wanda and the rest of his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Joe Kulick (left), shown with Bill Hendricks (right).

Dues Update for 2020/2021

During the June online meeting, club dues for 2020 and 2021 was discussed. Because the club had to cancel its meetings and show this past spring, and will likely hold online meetings through fall, the club executive committee has decided to dispense dues for 2021 **for all members who were paid up for 2020.**

To clarify, if a club member has paid his or her dues for 2020, he or she won't be required to pay dues next year (2021). However, if someone is not a paid member in 2020, then that person needs to pay for 2021. Club Treasurer Tammie Host mentioned that some people like to pay in person, and there are a few members who are not current with their dues. In such a case, those members must pay for this year OR next, but not both.

For questions, please send an email to [Club President Tim Malinich](#) or [Tammie](#); either will try to answer as clearly as possible.

More Beautiful Blooms from Club Member Shawn Murdock

The below beautiful blooming cacti are found in club member Shawn Murdock's front yard cactus beds (except the obvious potted plants).

Very impressive, Shawn, and thank you for sharing!

If you have any beautifully blooming cacti, or any other impressive plant you'd like to showcase, please email Melissa at Melissa415@hotmail.com to get your photos in the fall newsletter!



...And Yet More Beautiful Blooms from Club Treasurer Tammie Host

The photos to the right were taken in Tammie's greenhouse. Below are plant identifications:

Top photo: Epiphyllum

Bottom-left photo: Kalanchoe (Mother of Thousands) in bloom. The open flower is about 1" long!

Bottom-middle photo: Echinocereus

Bottom-right photo: Gymnocalycium bruchii



Stocking Up!

Club Vice President Bill Hendricks shows off this super-impressive *Agave victoriae-reginae* bloom stock.

Note that it is almost as tall as the greenhouse—6'9"!

It subsequently had to be moved outside since it was ready to pop through the top of the greenhouse!

From the President's Desk...



Club President Tim Malinich

Gotta Get 'em All

Collecting cacti and other succulents used to be more of a challenge, not too far from a game of Pokemon. You could randomly stumble on a neat plant in your travels as you checked out garden stores or road side stands. If you were lucky, there might be a “mom and pop” garden center that had odd plants that included succulents or cacti. Trading plants with friends was also a good source of new plants. Over time, you built up a collection of catalogs that were actually printed on paper and sent to you in the mail! Some collectors would even send out an annual list of plants they would be willing to sell you. You would send off your money and hope to get what you thought you were getting. That was 40 or more years ago.

Collecting has become less adventurous for most of us. Our commercial members have a great selection of plants—you can get tens of species of an individual genus from some of our members. Seed houses carry a wide variety of genera now. Collecting today is more a function of search strings and networks. You can order seeds or plants today and have them next week. Online catalogs let you see what you are actually getting and competition is fierce. Most growers are careful to provide you with an accurately identified plant in good condition.

The growers are also getting better. Plant material in general is in better condition—better understanding of soil, fertilizer and containers for succulents is resulting in better hobbyist and commercially produced plants. However, this has also led to people letting down their guard when it comes to quarantining new plant material. Most of us are out of room and have no place to isolate our new acquisitions; they are just moved into our collection the day they arrive.

You should, at the very least, thoroughly inspect your new plants for evidence of pests or disease. Better yet, isolate your plants for a few days to a week so you can better observe it for problems—yes, social distancing works, even amongst plants. Often, disease in a plant won't show up as a spot or lesion for several days to a week after the plant is infected.

Insect problems can be handled with your preferred method, organic or otherwise. Diseases are another matter. Once a plant is infected there is nothing you can do to get that infection out of the plant; it must run its course. You can remove the infected tissue, leaf or stem. Disease control in plants is primarily preventing the spread of infection to new areas. Here again, distance is your ally. Isolation of infected plants and good biosecurity—procedures similar to hand washing so you do not carry disease from plant to plant—go a long way in preventing spread. Within the collection, space between plants not only makes it harder for disease to spread but also allows for air circulation and drier conditions so disease cannot get started.

Understanding how disease spreads, and how it moves through a population, can help prevent an infection from running through your collection. So keep that in mind, practice good hygiene and be aware of how your actions can affect plants in your collections and others.

-Tim Malinich
MWCSS Club President

Quarterly Calendar of Events

July/August



Summer break—Enjoy!

September

***Please see forthcoming emails for a possible September meeting at Lake County Metroparks.*

MWCSS Mission:

Cactus and succulent collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed.

New Membership Information:

Contact Kathy Smith at kesmith913@gmail.com for new membership info.

Other Club Resources:

www.mwcss.com—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website. Email Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/mwcss/>—Fresh content is always needed for the club's Facebook page. Email Kathy at kesmith913@gmail.com.

MWCSS Club Officers:

Tim Malinich—Club president/webmaster

Bill Hendricks—Club vice president

Tammie Host—Club treasurer

Melissa Mezgec—Club newsletter writer/editor/designer

Kathy Smith—Interim club secretary/club publicity (Facebook page)/CBG affiliate

General Club Meeting Information

****Note:** Due to COVID-19, most of the remaining meetings for 2020 will be held via Zoom meetings. See upcoming emails for a determination on the September/December meetings.

CBG Directions

11030 East Blvd.,
Cleveland, OH 44106

CBG is in the University Circle/Wade Park area of Cleveland, five miles east of downtown.

From I-90 Lakeshore Memorial Freeway: Exit at Martin Luther King Drive and go south on MLK.

Cross E. 105th and take right curve. Turn left on Jephtha (at art museum) to Wade Oval.

CBG is across the park and at the end of East Blvd.

